

General Law Committee  
Public Hearing – Thursday February 25, 2010  
Raise Bill 5225 – An Act Concerning Solar Work

Good afternoon, Senator Colapietro, Representative Shapiro, committee members. My name is Michael Moconyi and I am the Executive Director for the Connecticut Chapter, National Electrical Contractors Association (CT Chapter, NECA). Thank you for allowing me to make some brief comments on Bill 5225 – An Act Concerning Solar Work.

CT NECA is here today to speak in favor of requiring the installation of "Solar Work" to be performed by E1 and E2 electrical license holders. Solar electric is loosely defined as the installation, erection, repair, replacement, alteration or maintenance of photovoltaic or wind generation equipment used to distribute power. This technology has been around for decades and the installations have been performed by E1 and E2 licensed electricians.

Historically, the State of Connecticut has issued E1 and E2 licenses that regulates the installation of electrical generated power systems. Solar work clearly falls under that definition. The photovoltaic panels once exposed to sunlight begin to produce power immediately. For any agency or group to **now** remotely claim that our E1 and E2 license holders are not sufficiently trained for this type of work is misguided in their claims. Our industry spends hundreds of thousands of private dollars annually on training our workforce for applications in the residential, commercial and industrial fields which includes training on Solar Work technologies.

Due to the state of our economy the electrical industry like so many other industries today is experiencing a significant downturn. By many accounts unemployment in the electrical construction industry is 30% and higher. Why create additional regulation to compete in the solar market? E1 and E2 license holders provide the infrastructure to perform solar installation work. Do not allow for any licensing exemptions to be included in the statute by allowing exemptions you raise the possibility of faulty installation by untrained or undertrained individuals that place the public at risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration.